

**REPORT TO THE
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Carbon Building – Courthouse Annex
215 W. Buffalo St., Rawlins, WY**

A special meeting of the Board of Carbon County Commissioners (BOCC) commenced Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Carbon Building-Courthouse Annex, Rawlins, WY. Attending the meeting were Chairman, R. Travis Moore, Vice Chairman Gwynn Bartlett, Commissioners John Johnson, and John Espy. Commissioner Sue Jones was in attendance online.

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Bartlett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

BRIDGE STRUCTURE DMT, OVER THE ENCAMPMENT RIVER, CR680 (BAGGOT ROCKS ROAD)

Chairman Moore began by reading the letter received from WYDOT on April 5, 2025, regarding the critical finding on Project IS12526, Off-System Bridge Inspection and Inventory for bridge structure DMT over the Encampment River on CR680 (Baggot Rocks Road).

WYDOT is recommending either closing the bridge until it can be repaired and installing non-movable barriers (such as concrete barriers) to restrict traffic at each bridge end or permanently closing the bridge with non-movable barriers. The bridge is currently part of the BROS (Bridge Replacement Off-System) program and is scheduled for replacement in fiscal year 2030.

Commissioner Johnson stated the report was performed in August 2024 and asked why it took WYDOT nine months to send notification of a critical issue. Kandis Fritz, Road and Bridge Supervisor detailed WYDOT's basic process from inspection to notification. Commissioner Espy stated this bridge provides access for many people and asked what it takes for this bridge to be serviceable for at least light passenger vehicles. Ms. Fritz stated it will take a structural engineer to make this decision. She stated the detour route is approximately a 20-minute drive. Commissioner Espy stated five years is a long time to close a bridge and the county should reach out to engineers to evaluate what is needed for temporary repairs. He stated that if this was critical it would have risen to the top of the list of the BROS program and the county would have been notified sooner. Commissioner Jones followed up by saying they need to proceed with a temporary fix. She asked if a "cross at your own risk" sign is an option versus an actual closure otherwise it will be a huge inconvenience for landowners in the area. Commissioner Johnson mentioned a company used for a previous bridge issue that might be an option to reach out to. He stated it's prudent to get this fixed as quickly as possible. Ms. Fritz is still requesting closing the bridge until more information is known to include a review from engineers. WYDOT is restricted on how they can assist. Clerk Bartlett stated safety is the utmost concern for the residents in the area as well as

proper for them to receive appropriate notification. Attorney Ashley Davis requested an executive session to discuss matters deemed confidential by law. She reached out to WYDOT regarding the possibility of renting a temporary bridge structure and was notified to contact ACROW Bridge Company directly to discuss rental options as WYDOT owns ACROW bridges but does not rent them out. Attorney Davis stated that she asked WYDOT if it is possible for this bridge project to be moved up on the BROS program schedule, but was told all BROS funds have been committed to other off-system bridge projects and there is no funding available for an earlier place on the schedule. This is a wetland area that could also hinder the repair process. Commissioner Jones stated she wants to get an engineer hired and get the process started before high water season.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Espy moved to go into executive session at 3:21 p.m. with Clerk Smith and Ashley Mayfield Davis to discuss personnel, potential litigation and other matters considered confidential by law. Commissioner Bartlett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Espy moved to come out of executive session at 3:39 p.m. noting no action was taken and that the minutes be signed and sealed. Commissioner Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Espy moved to temporarily close bridge structure DMT over the Encampment River on CR680 (Baggot Rocks Road) and direct the Road and Bridge Supervisor to begin the process of engineering and repairs and report back as she receives information. Commissioner Jones seconded. Commissioner Johnson stated that the inspection and notification process from WYDOT taking nine months but only have a thirty-day notice to make the decision to close the bridge is unfair to the constituents who live in this area. Commissioner Bartlett recommended that Ms. Fritz provides official notification to landowners and emergency services. Commissioner Jones stated notification should also be provided to WY Game and Fish so they can update their access information online for this area. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 p.m. Commissioner Espy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The regular meeting of this Board will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Carbon Building – Courthouse Annex located at 215 W. Buffalo St., Rawlins, WY. The public is invited to attend or listen online at the website listed below. To be placed on the agenda, call the Clerk's Office by Thursday before the meeting. Per Wyo. Stat. §18-3-516(f), access to county information can be obtained at www.carboncountywy.gov or by calling the Clerk's Office at (307) 328-2668 or 1-800-250-9812.